

OTHER ITEMS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DENTISTRY FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

Dr. Roger Hall is a member of the Council of I.A.D.H. and attended the Association's 4th Congress in London 12th-15th September, 1978. At the Editor's request he has prepared the following report.

The Congress under the chairmanship of Dr. Arnold Franks was held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Dr. Franks was installed President by the retiring President Dr. Peter Westphal of Sweden at the opening ceremony.

His Grace, the Duke of Devonshire, Vice President of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation gave the opening address. This was followed by a lecture "The Handicapped child, his family and the community", by Professor Mitchell, the Department of Child Health, University of Dundee.

The presentation of papers by members commenced with a paper by Dr. Des Crack from the Royal Dental Hospital, Melbourne, a member of the Victorian Branch of ASDC. He considered "The Dental needs of the handicapped and the homebound patient - the homebound". Other papers covered oral pathology in children with cerebral palsy, methods of x-ray examination for the handicapped child, and orthodontics for the handicapped child. Two papers dealt with oral changes and masticatory function in patients with muscular dystrophy.

A further series of papers covered child management, from behaviour modification to the use of pharmacological agents and anaesthesia. The preventive care of handicapped children - particularly those in institutions was of course covered, and shown to be effective and practical, now that chlorhexidine gluconate is readily available, providing sufficient ancillary staff are available to carry out and encourage the procedures necessary.

Dr. Margaret Griffiths, Consultant Paediatrician from the West Midlands in the United Kingdom, presented a guest lecture - "The changing face of childhood handicap".

The Congress ended on the Friday, with two interesting sessions, the first chaired by Dr. Hall, was a film session with three quite different screenings; the most interesting, entitled "Let's Go - and look after our teeth", was part of a new series of films made by the British Broadcasting Corporation, and is the first ever television series specially made for mentally handicapped people themselves. Mr. Gordon Croton, Senior Producer of the B.B.C. introduced the film which excited a certain amount of criticism on the aspects of dental treatment illustrated on the film.

The final session was a symposium on "Teaching of dentistry for the handicapped"; Dr. Harvey Brown (N.Z.), Dr. Norman Levine, (Canada), Professor Neil Swallow (N. Ireland), and Dr. Uehara (Japan), comprised the panel.

Socially, the meeting was a great success, with a splendid banquet at the Guildhall, and a reception for overseas delegates, given by Her Majesty's Government at historic Lancaster House.

The meeting was again heavily paedodontic in content and orientation, however Council is concerned that in the future the meeting should be balanced, and that our membership and attendance should include those working in other areas of dentistry and in the adult field as well as those interested in the dental care for handicapped children.

The next Congress in 1980, will be held in Israel under Dr. Haim Sarnat's Chairmanship, (Dr. Sarnat is the current President of the International Association of Dentistry for Children, and is an Executive Councillor of IADH). Already plans are well advanced for the 1982 meeting, to be held in Toronto; the organizing committee for that meeting is under the Chairmanship of Dr. Norman Levine.

The general meeting elected Professor Swallow to be President-Elect, and Dr. Norman Levine as Secretary/Treasurer.

ROGER K. HALL

A.S.D.C. 3rd BIENNIAL CONVENTION - ADELAIDE.

JUNE 28th and 29th, 1979.

As announced in the September Newsletter the 3rd Biennial Convention of the Society will be held in Adelaide June 28th and 29th, 1979. The programme will centre on a course of lectures by Prof. Tom Barber from the dental school in the University of California, Los Angeles. Plans are well under way to ensure the success of this meeting both scientifically and socially.

Professor Barber's main topic will be Preventive Orthodontics and the Young Child. In an outline of the course he says:-

"The general practitioner will see many of the child population during those important years of 6 - 12, the period when the deciduous dentition gives way to the erupting permanent teeth.

Developing malocclusions are the result of skeletal growth patterns of genetic origin, or the result of disturbances that arise during the dentitional changes themselves and are due to aberrant oral environmental factors."

Emphasis will be placed on how to diagnose and differentiate between the two differing growth patterns and so better appreciate those cases which must be referred to the specialist, and those which can and should be treated by the general practitioner.

A variety of treatment examples will be shown and treatment methods will be the focus.

ANSETT AIRLINES have been approved as official carriers for the Convention. More information and further details together with preliminary enrolment forms will be mailed in early February.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As mentioned in the Federal Secretary's Notebook (6) it is proposed, as an experiment starting in the next issue, to include with the Newsletter some abstracts of articles relating to Childrens' Dentistry.